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Letter to the Editor

Injuries in infants must be differentiated from those in toddlers

To the Editor

I read with interest Dr Wyatt and his colleagues' article. Although it confirms that injuries inflicted on children by children are typically mild, it would be interesting for the authors to address the issue of infantile injuries. Child maltreatment and specifically inflicted traumatic brain injuries, are the number one cause of death from injuries in children under the age of a year. Occasionally, caregivers are provided with histories that an infant's older yet not fully verbal sibling inflicted the injuries; thereby placing blame on a child who cannot be interviewed by authorities to assess the veracity of the story. Although such a situation raises the possibility of child abuse, very little published data is available to support the notion that infants rarely sustain life-threatening injuries at the hands of older siblings. I urge the authors to publish their data with the additional demographic category of infants under one year, instead of grouping all children 0–4 years into one group.

Arguably, infants are a very different population from toddlers and should be analyzed separately to reflect that important point.

Conflicts of interest

No conflicts of interest to declare.

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